

members of the force during the past year, 17 dismissals, 21 reprimands and 9 fines.

**LIQUOR LICENSES.**  
Four hundred and seventeen applications for the approval of licenses to sell intoxicating liquors at retail were received during the year. Of these 377 were approved and 45 disapproved. Of the 45 disapproved, 11 were refused licenses for this traffic are impure and dangerous. The endeavors to execute them having shown that complete police control is almost impossible, it is deemed desirable that Congress be asked to revise them. It is respectfully submitted whether change of present law into two classes of licenses would not conduce to better results and growing evils arising from the present system. As it is believed that most of the impure and poisonous compounds sold are retailed in the

Another class of license for the sale of whisky, rum, gin, brandy and the more intoxicating liquors, with like penalties for adulteration, should be considered. The license is now sold for a term of years from \$300 to \$500 per annum. These licenses would thus answer all necessary public, private and official purposes. The sale of a license for the sale of liquors is now upon a large class of persons who seem unable, under their existing

are unconditionally bound to the bonds by which they are unconditionally bound.

On the ground claimed by liquor dealers as to the authority of the board to disapprove a license for any place after the applicant has complied with existing laws by getting the assent of the city housekeepers and property owners, the board acquiesces in the license as valid. In its judgment the public interest demands such place to be licensed or not, as also upon the power of the board to revoke a license during the license year and to refuse to issue a license for the next year if the license should be revoked. In the estimation of the board the provision contained in the third section of the act approved July 23, 1896, amendatory of that establishing a Metropolitan police, which reads: "That no license shall be issued or renewed by any of the authorities having jurisdiction within said District, until the same shall have been approved by the Board of Police," was intended to be applied to the board of police.

By reason of the great increase of this class of criminals there exists a necessity for some provision beyond the existing laws to enable the authorities to keep the peace and to bring the lawless to justice. The ordinances relating to vagrancy are now the only means of bringing them before the courts, unless discovered in a criminal act. The board of police is of the opinion that a

It is apparent that there is not sufficient provision made for the care of poor and paupers within the District limits. Outside of charitable societies and institutions there are large classes of persons who ostensibly gain a living by begging. The old corporation ordinance for begging is a deterrent to the beggars, but has become a nuisance in the practice of our courts, and the offspring of the idle have become annoying and criminal. The number of persons now living exclusively by begging in the District is about five thousand. The beggars are mostly from the families of the poor.

Some of the houses are supported by children who go about begging. Their parents have been known to refuse to work, although healthy and able-bodied. The dens in which the people live are the best of the kind in the city. The children who are educated in lawlessness and crime. It is fair to presume that the increase of the number of arrests in the last two years is mainly due to the criminal practices of this element in the District.

STATION-HOUSE.

Out of the eight precincts of the District the Third, Fourth and Eighth only have proper station-houses, while for the remaining five (excepting the Central guard-house) buildings have been improvised for temporary purposes. The District Commissioners, however, have recently authorized the rental of a building for the Second, Fifth and Sixth precincts, which will afford fair

The six detective officers in the service are charged more especially with the cases of pickpockets, robbers, vagrants, and prostitutes. During the year there were 1,012 robberies of various kinds reported to this corps. The total value of property thus reported to have been stolen was \$31,665.65. Besides these there were 66 robberies of greater or less importance that were never reported to this office, but which, coming under its notice, these officers have not hesitated to consider them, and have sometimes been instrumental in arresting the criminals and recovering the property.

\$74,000 was nobly one of these cases, and of which nearly \$20,000 was recovered, and several persons were arrested by them and turned over to the police. The total amount of the money accounted for by the detective corps within the year was \$45,702.46, exceeding by \$1,501.51 the sum reported as stolen. These detectives made 410 arrests, and it is believed this record exhibits due diligence on the part of the corps.

**POLICE TELEGRAPH.**

It is difficult to estimate the great value of the present line of the police telegraph establishment. Its worth is shown by the record of 4,301 dispatches sent from different points during the year. Recent changes have enabled the board to obtain the services of two operators and the care of the telegraph has been placed under the same man as was formerly expended for a superintendent as operator. The entire original lines have

It is particularly an unwelcome task to recommend any increase of expenditures on account of the Government in this District. But from the extended bounds requiring police surveillance it appears to be a duty which the Board of Police cannot and dare not ignore, in view of the various interests that are at stake. Therefore, for the reasons herein presented, it is respectfully submitted and recommended that Congress be asked to provide:

1. The transfer of the various watchmen now authorized to be employed in the executive departments and the public buildings and grounds within the District for assignment to duty in common with the police force, by and under the rules of the Board of Police.

2. That, in addition to such increase of the force, there be authorized to be employed twelve sergeants of police and four hundred privates, with provision for uniform pay with like officers now authorized by law.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

3. For a revision of the laws authorizing licenses for the sale of liquors, providing two classes of qualities that may be sold and rates therefor to be established, providing penalties for adulteration and for sales without due license, together

with such further provision of law as will distinctly define the duties of the Board of Police regarding the approval of licenses, for what causes it is the duty of the Board of Police to revoke a license as well as to revoke the license, and to summarily close any unlicensed or previously licensed place where intoxicating liquors are sold, when satisfied the public welfare, health and peace require.

**POWER TO ARREST PROFESSIONAL THIEVES.**

It is the authority of law for any officer of the Metropolitan Police to arrest, with or without a warrant, as the necessity of the case may require, any person whom such officer shall know to be a professional thief, burglar or pickpocket, and such person as he has sufficient cause to believe to be a habitual offender in such crimes. It shall be presumed to the satisfaction of the Police or Criminal Court that such person had an unlawful purpose in view

at the time of arrest, 30 or 60 days, in default of ample security not to visit the person in the County Jail for the next year, shall be committed to jail for a term not exceeding ninety days, at the discretion of such court.

**CARE OF PAUPERS.**

4. That the local authorities be authorized and required to make immediate and ample provision for the care and subsistence of all worthy destitute, and that Congress enact such penalties for those who neglect or refuse to care for alms as shall effectually prevent it in the future.

**NEW STATION-HOUSES.**

5. That said local authorities be also required to provide permanent viable buildings for the full accommodation of the police at certain places in each of the precincts where temporary provision only has been made.

**Accompanying Reports.**  
The superintendent's report of the work of the police force shows that the whole number of arrests during the year were 14,132, of which 10,000 were males and 2,132 were females. The offences may be classed as against the person, 3,135 males, 1,614 females, and against property, 2,087 males, and the females. Of the cases reported 4,981 were dismissed, 5 were turned over to the military, 1,398 were sent to jail for court, 120 gave bail for court, 1,713 were sent to the workhouse, 107 gave security to keep the peace, 45 were sent to the Reform school, 77 were not disposed of, and in 2,104 cases various light punishments were inflicted. Fines were imposed in 3,710 cases, amounting to \$30,728.45, of which amount \$14,769.99 came from Dis-

that remained being appealed. The number of destitute persons furnished with lodgings was 12,084; lost children restored to parents, 190; sick or disabled persons assisted or taken to hospital, 1,000; horses, cattle or fowls found astray and returned to owners, 501; fires in the District, 105; accidents reported, 120; inquests attended, 21; persons found dead, in need and abandoned infants found, 30; suicides, 1.

The police fund report shows a balance on hand of \$11,460.